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Subject: Spawning Unix commands from IDL under bash

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Fri, 10 Jun 2016 18:20:02 GMT

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I've recently succumbed to peer pressure to switch my (Mac and Linux) shell from tcsh to bash.

Everything is working fine except that I do not have access to the aliases defined in my .bash\_profile (Mac) or .bashrc (linux) files when spawning from IDL. For example in my .bash\_profile file I have

```
alias ll="ls -l"
```

I am able to use this alias at the system prompt but it is not recognized when spawning from the IDL prompt

```
IDL> $ll (or IDL> spawn,'ll' )  
bash: ll: command not found
```

Note that this is not a PATH problem and IDL> spawn,'ls' does work.

A google search revealed a user asking a similar question 10 years ago  
<https://docs.astro.columbia.edu/ticket/160>

and the "solution" was to use tcsh instead of the bash shell. But there must be some way for bash users to get the same behavior issuing a command from SPAWN within IDL, that they do when issuing the command from the system prompt.

Thanks, --Wayne

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